



January, 2017

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(WI Tech College DBA@districtboards)

BTC earns 2017 Military Friendly designation

Blackhawk Technical College is pleased to announce for the second year in a row it has earned the 2017 silver award as a Military Friendly School designation by Victory Media, publisher of G.I. Jobs®, STEM Jobs SM, and Military Spouse.

"We are honored to be recognized for the work we do for our students who have served, or who are currently in service to our country," Michael Olmsted, Veterans Resource Specialist. "These men and women make a valuable contribution to our campus community every day. We're grateful to be recognized for our service to all of our students."

First published in 2009, Military Friendly® Schools is the most comprehensive, powerful resource for veterans today. Each year, the list of Military Friendly® Schools is provided to service members and their families, helping them select the best college, university, or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media's proprietary survey. More than 1,600 Midwestern schools participated in the survey; 1,160 were awarded with the designation.

Ratings methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Victory Media with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

Awards levels are defined as:

1. Top Gold – ranked list of Top 10 in a category based on numerical score
2. Gold – scored within 20% of the last-ranked (10th) organization
3. Silver – scored within 30% of the last-ranked (10th) organization
4. Bronze – scored within 40% of the last-ranked (10th) organization



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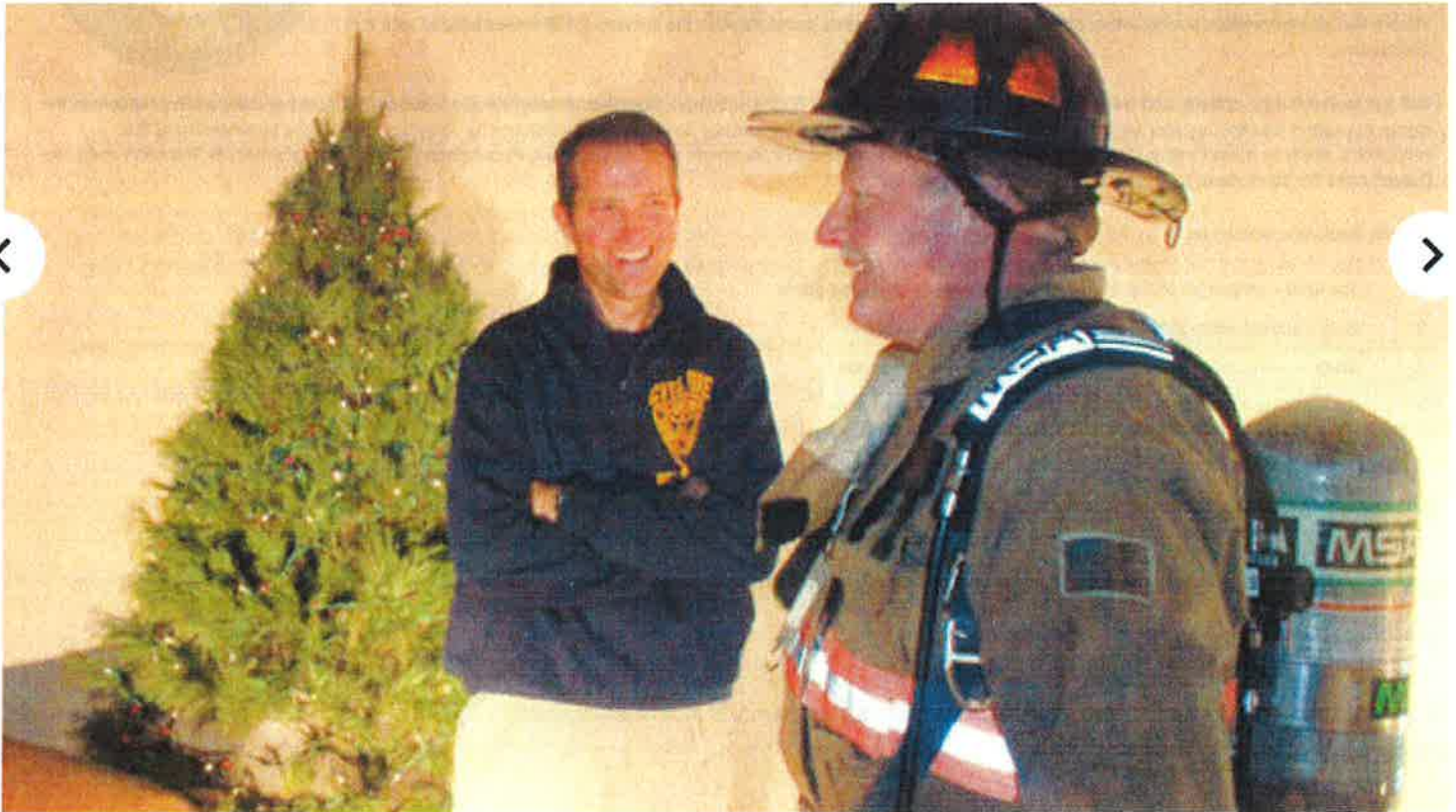
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FLIR

At CVTC: Building-in-a-building provides fire-testing scene

By [rfjnews](#) on Dec 15, 2016 at 2:51 p.m.

1



1/3

ⓘ

EAU CLAIRE – Frying hamburgers were left unattended on a stove top until they began to burn, with alarms going off and smoke filling the air, and that wasn't the only time a fire hazard happened in an Eau Claire apartment during the first week of December.

Blankets were left near a space heater, a burning cigarette was thrown into a trash can, and a fork was left in a microwave.

But everything was under control. The apartment was inside the Fire Safety Center at Chippewa Valley Technical College and the hazards were created intentionally.

Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) constructed the one-bedroom apartment inside the burn room of the Fire Safety Center building, in order to test a revolutionary new line of fire safety equipment designed to prevent fires instead of just detecting them.

It is one of the most unique uses of the Fire Safety Center since it opened in 2014.

“OneEvent Technologies has developed a predictive analytical system that looks at fire alarm systems in a different way,” said Jim Zirbel, vice president of markets for the company based in Mount Horeb. “Fire alarms detect problems after something has happened.

“The product, called OnePrevent, detects potential problems based on environmental changes. It allows one to go in and prevent an event rather than react to one.”

OneEvent is planning a major product launch in the coming weeks, but first, the company needed to do some extensive testing in real-world conditions.

For that, OneEvent turned to Eau Claire-based CVTC. (CVTC has one of its campuses in River Falls)

The Fire Safety Center includes a 50' X 50' burn room with thick concrete walls 30 feet high and a ceiling lined with fireproof tiles. Fans and vents tightly control the air fueling a fire and a foam fire suppression system is on hand if needed.

The room is large enough to construct a small apartment inside, creating the ideal conditions for OneEvent's test.

“They came to us with a plan and said they wanted it to be as close to a regular apartment as possible so they can collect data on their system,” said Red VanErt, Fire Safety Center coordinator. “When we built the Fire Safety Center, we thought we might be doing something like this, but on a reduced scale.

“But they wanted full scale and we said we could handle it.”

Kim Nessel, the lead Fire Safety Center technician and Chris Turner, lead technician for this project, built the apartment, leaving some unneeded details unfinished.

“It would be almost impossible to duplicate this testing environment elsewhere,” Zirbel said. “We basically built a house inside the building.”

“This is the only place we know of where we could do this where we would have real-world situations,” said Kurt Wedig, co-founder and CEO of OneEvent Technologies.

OneEvent needed to duplicate real conditions because its products monitor real environmental factors and look for sometimes subtle changes that can signal trouble.

“We use sensors to monitor temperature, carbon monoxide levels, humidity, motion detection, and other factors,” Zirbel said. “The system learns what is normal in the environment, including certain recurring temperature changes. Knowing what is normal is absolutely essential to predicting.”

When the system detects abnormal changes, it sends an alert, such as a message to a smart phone, of a potential problem. Of course, when needed it also sends out a traditional alarm, which can include a direct notification to the fire department.

Wedig said the system has applications for home and business owners.

“We're looking at commercial markets,” Wedig said. “We see huge applications for senior housing and hotels.”

Said Zirbel: "We're testing a number of common fire threats, including a burning Christmas tree."

OnePrevent also avoids sending out a full alarm during a normal situation. In a scenario familiar to homeowners, a traditional smoke alarm went off when normal cooking odors filled the room during the hamburger test. The OnePrevent system detected environmental changes, but did not sound a full alarm until the meat began to burn.

"The smoke alarm responding to a cooking odor is a nuisance alarm," Zirbel said. "The person cooking the hamburger is going to get a stool, take down the smoke detector and put it in a drawer.

"Then you have no smoke alarm. OnePrevent avoids the nuisance alarms and lets you know of a potential event."

() Wedig said the company has already had a "soft" product release, but is preparing for a major release, with the final testing setting the stage. "We're doing something no one has ever done before – creating a paradigm shift from reaction to prevention."

Van Ert said the stage where the tests were conducted will be coming down. Undamaged materials can be disassembled and saved for possible future similar scenarios.

The Fire Safety Center was constructed through the use of grants from the Phillips Family Foundation and the CVTC Foundation, Inc. It is managed by CVTC's Business & Industry Services, which provides worker training and other services for area businesses.

"This is one of only five such facilities in the world," said Roxann Vanderwyst, director of B&I Services. "This facility allows local companies to do testing related to fire conditions. This is a unique use of the facility."

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3 Secrets The Mattress Industry Doesn't Want Out – Find Out What They're Hiding

By Lull

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Fox Valley Technical College unveils new welding lab

Miller Electric donated the equipment in an effort to shrink the skills gap in Wisconsin

By Nolan Blair

Published: November 10, 2016, 5:09 pm Updated: November 10, 2016, 5:32 pm

APPLETON, Wis. (WBAY) – Fox Valley Technical College unveiled a new welding lab on its Appleton campus Thursday made possible by a big donation by Miller Electric Manufacturing Company.

Tristin Peebles works for Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton while improving his welding skills at Fox Valley Technical College. It's a craft he started years ago.

"Chose welding because my dad got me into it when I was probably 9 years ago, been around cars and racing," says FVTC Student Tristin Peebles.

Now he'll be able to develop that skill even more thanks to eight new robotic welders and an arc welding system donated to Fox Valley Technical College by Miller Electric.

"Both Miller Electric and Fox Valley Tech recognize that the gap in skills trade, welders specifically, is continuing to grow," said Miller Electric's Dave Lambert.

It's a shortage manufacturing companies in Wisconsin are feeling.

A company in the Fox Valley that has been looking for a welder for months is Fireline Sprinkler Corporation.

"If I had to guesstimate we've interviewed 25 people and weld tested those people and none passed our welding test," said Fireline Sprinkler Corporation's Kristine Taylor.

The company that makes and installs sprinklers believes its applicants need more hands-on experience.

Peebles thinks he can gain that needed experience by using the new machines at FVTC.

"If you use it you'll gain more knowledge. Every machine is different," said Peebles.

Gateway training program has helped 51 companies

\$900,000 in grants helping companies improve workforce

Published October 28



BY JAMES LAWSON

jlawson@kenoshanews.com



The Gateway Technical College Kenosha campus. (GATEWAY PHOTO)

Email

Print

Debbie Davidson, Vice President of business and workforce solutions. "It has to be a mutual benefit to employer and employee."

The WAT program includes various manufacturing process training programs such as robotics, preventative maintenance, diecast, and computer numeric control operation. It also includes non-manufacturing training such as blueprint reading, management, telecom and Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

The companies include Kenall Manufacturing, Bradshaw Medical, Mondi Akrosil and Shiloh Industries in Kenosha County; LaVelle Industries and HFI Fluid Power of Racine County; and Birds Eye Foods in Walworth County.

The WAT program varies from other occupational training programs with employers awarded grants to prepare their employees to learn new technologies, take on new tasks and enhance their career advancement opportunities, according to Davidson.

Since 2011, Gateway has provided training for 51 companies. It has provided training for more than 1500 employees since the 2014 academic year, administering nearly \$900,000 in WAT grants.

Gateway Technical College, under grants awarded by the Wisconsin Technical College System, will train more than 400 employees with companies in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties.

The Workforce Advancement Training grants totaling \$248,081 have been awarded to 12 companies and a multi-company consortium within Gateway's tri-county educational jurisdiction. The grants awarded to the companies and administered by Gateway are between \$8,000 and \$50,000, depending on the type of training provided.

Under the grant program, Gateway will perform training at company workplaces during the 2016-17 academic year.

Training will range from 50 to 200 hours and a training class could include 10 to 100 employees. Companies go through a vetting process that has them providing information about the company, what training is needed and what impact it will have on the company. The grant application is prepared by Gateway.

"The company must tell how training will benefit the company and how it will benefit the employee," explained

Lakeshore Technical College Trains Aspiring Chefs

Saturday, November 19, 2016 6:52 a.m. CST by Raymond Neupert



LTC Students do prep work for Bistro 712 at the Lakeshore Culinary Institute, November 14 2016
(photo: Raymond Neupert WHBL)

SHEBOYGAN, WI (WHBL) - Lakeshore Technical College's Culinary Institute is working to help students get thier foot into the door of local hospitality groups.

Associate dean Rufina Garay says a degree or certification from the Institute is a great way to start a career or get a promotion. "We have a couple of students who graduated a year or two ago, and they're now executive chefs in local area restaurants. So that's really exciting for us, our program has been very effective." Students in the institute learn the methods of French

cooking as a basic platform to work up to more advanced methods in the future. The classes also serve as a great basis for any sort of hospitality job someone might be looking for. "We've had people come in the door who've said 'I want to be a sommelier, and I need to know about food to understand food and wine pairings, but I can't cook.' By the time they graduate, their palettes have developed and they can cook."

The Institute's Bistro 712 working restaurant also serves as a basis for teaching students how to operate in a commercial environment. The bistro is open Thursday and Friday nights while classes are in session, and the culinary students operate the whole system, from ingredients to prep work to line cooking, and even working the front end. Garay says the school works closely with the community in sourcing the food the students cook with. "Artisinal cheeses that are made in Cleveland where the campus is, and we also have some aquaponics farms where we get our greens, and then we partner with Nourish as well, and they provide some vegetables and fruit products through the summer time."

The Bistro is serving up its final dinners of the semester next month, and you can find out more online at <http://www.bistro712.com> (<http://www.bistro712.com>). You can also find out more about the Insitute and sign up for classes at LTC's website at <http://gotoltc.edu> (<http://gotoltc.edu>)

Madison College certifies 16 WCA Woodworking Skill Evaluators

By **Karl D. Forth** November 01, 2016 | 1:35 pm EDT

COMMENTS

PRINT



MADISON, Wis. -- Wisconsin once again leads the nation in accredited skill evaluators following a sold-out Woodwork Career Alliance (WCA) Accredited Skill Evaluator training program held October 28 at Madison Area Technical College.

The training of 16 new evaluators capped off a full-day event that also included a woodworking teacher in-service program at Madison College's cabinetmaking instruction facility. Accredited skill evaluators are responsible for assessing and awarding skill stamps to woodworkers participating in the WCA's Passport credential program.

Patrick Molzahn, director of Madison College's Cabinetmaking & Millwork program and a WCA chief evaluator, presided over the evaluator training. Madison College was the site of the first-ever WCA evaluator training in 2011 and has held at least one training session every year since. Molzahn has personally trained more than 75 evaluators for the WCA.

"I am excited to add 16 new evaluators to our list, and even more excited that Wisconsin has re-taken the lead over California as having the largest number of WCA certified evaluators in North America," Molzahn said.

The morning in-service program was attended by 23 teachers. While the majority were from Illinois and Wisconsin, one teacher came from Wyoming and an industry member travelled from Florida to attend the event.

The in-service program featured five speakers. Molzahn shared a number of training resources, including several new videos developed as part of Madison College's self-directed curriculum initiative.

Bert Christensen of Westochia High School demonstrated how his students use video to document their WCA evaluations. Dan Hertel of Deforest High School showed how he teaches students to use portable power saws.

Dennis Mossholder of Madison East High School shared how he teaches layout and implements specific layout concepts into student projects. Mark Smith of Reed-Custer High School discussed how he promotes his woodworking program and how his students create electronic portfolios of their work.

The WCA provided lunch and Bessey Tools North America provided door prizes for the event. Six lucky winners went home with Bessey clamps. Each participant left with their

own customized measurement widget which they can use to evaluate their students.

Molzahn noted that Wisconsin teachers have an even greater incentive to certify their students. The WCA credential was recently recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development as eligible for Act 59 funding. High schools in the state can now receive up to \$1,000 per student for every credential awarded.

For more information about the event, contact Patrick Molzahn at 608-246-6842

or pmolzahn@madisoncollege.edu.

Mid-State offering new transfer agreements



Nathan Vine , USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 9:16 p.m. CST November 22, 2016



Mid-State Technical College has two new transfer agreements in place with the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

The agreements allow for students completing an associate degree in Gerontology or Health & Wellness programs at Mid-State to transfer directly to the bachelor of science in Development & Family Studies program at UW-Stout, according to a release. Students graduating from the Mid-State's Gerontology program will enter UW-Stout with 51 credits, while graduates from the Health & Wellness program will enter with 49 credits, both just shy of junior status. After transferring they will be able to complete their programs at UW-Stout entirely online or face-to-face.

"I'm thrilled that we were able to partner with UW-Stout to make these new transfer opportunities a reality for our students," said Deb Clarke, an associate dean of Mid-State's Service & Health programs, in the release. "The agreements provide a clear educational path for our graduates to pursue a bachelor's degree, with less wasted time and credits. As a result, they can move into their in-demand careers faster, with less cost and debt."

UW-Stout's efforts to develop the agreements were led by Dr. Amanda Barnett, assistant professor and program director, and Dr. Sam Zaid, online program director, both in the Human Development and Family Studies department.

The two new transfer agreements go into effect immediately and bring the number of agreements between Mid-State and four-year colleges to 89. For more information about Mid-State's transfer opportunities, visit www.mstc.edu/transfer.

Stritch

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2017

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Easy does it

Stritch partners with several colleges to help students seamlessly continue their education

Several rounds of signings, handshakes and smiles defined 2016, when Stritch administrators sat alongside colleagues from Milwaukee Area Technical College, Gateway Technical College and Waukesha County Technical College to formalize new agreements that allow students to seamlessly transfer from associate programs at the colleges to bachelor's programs at Cardinal Stritch University.

"These articulation agreements provide an academic and career pathway for students to reach a higher earning potential and helps provide a talented workforce to meet society's growing needs," said President Dr. James P. Loftus. "They are partnerships for education, for jobs and for a better community."

Chris Head, coordinator of Prior Learning Assessment and Articulation, said the University now has more than two dozen agreements in place with colleges throughout Wisconsin, with more in the pipeline.



"These agreements include program-to-program articulations, concurrent enrollment for nursing, and partnerships that lower cost and increase access for associate degree completers from the partnering technical colleges," Head said.

To learn about the programs, visit www.stritch.edu/articulation.

The agreements attracted local media attention:

Moraine Park wants to buy land, expand in Beaver Dam

BEN RUETER Daily Citizen Dec 5, 2016

Moraine Park Technical College in Beaver Dam is asking to purchase about two acres of land alongside Highway 151 from the city.

“We think this is a good opportunity and a good time...” Carrie Kasubaski, vice president of finance and administration said Monday night during the Beaver Dam Operations Committee.

She said MPTC is currently running a capital campaign to raise \$800,000 for a gas utility technician program. She added that the gas utility center isn’t dependent on the land acquisition. However, doing both at the same time works best for MPTC.

MPTC is looking to buy the land for \$1,000.

The expansion to the building is estimated to be 3,800 square feet on the north side of the campus and it will include a lab and classroom.

According to a document detailing the gas utility technician workforce development, MPTC is working with Wisconsin Technical College System, Wisconsin Energy Workforce Consortium, WE Energy, Madison Gas and Electric, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and Michels Corporation. They all have verified the need for local gas utility workers.

Aldersperson Jon Abfall asked about the program’s popularity. Kasubaski told him there are 20 students projected to graduate through the program with the first graduates coming in 2019.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay has a gas utility technician program that will be a model for the MPTC program. Kasubaski said there are only two technical colleges in Wisconsin that offer a gas utility technician program and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College is one of them. MPTC in Beaver Dam would be the third.

Phase 1 of the program concept was approved by WTCS in May.

There is no firm timeline, but Kasubaski said MPTC is looking at breaking ground sometime in 2017.

The committee recommended sale of the land to the Plan Commission.

brueter@capitalnewspapers.com

Northwoods graphic designers struggle to find jobs; Nicolet College suspends training program

Submitted: 12/08/2016

RHINELANDER - Twenty-two-year-old Tessa Szmania wanted to work full-time as graphic designer. She also wanted to live in Rhineland.

It turns out she couldn't have both.

Szmania got an associate's degree in graphic design from Nicolet College in Rhineland in 2013. Then, things got tough.

"It was hard to even begin to find a job around here," Szmania said. "In a big city, there's job postings all the time for graphic designers. The last couple years, I've been looking, and I haven't seen any."

After working at a salvage yard for a little while, she gradually got back into graphic design as a freelancer, starting a business called Forward Design. But it was difficult to pay the bills doing design work alone.



So Szmania taught herself to do screen printing work out of her home.

"I figured that's something I could add just a little bit to keep my business going," she said. "It seems to be working out pretty good."

Szmania isn't alone in having to compromise a dedicated graphic design career.

The lack of graphic design jobs in the Northwoods means many people with degrees aren't working solely as graphic designers.

"In the Northwoods, we're just seeing that there aren't specific graphic design jobs available for our graduates," said Nicolet College Dean of Liberal Arts and Business Dr. Emily Stuckenbruck.

For that reason, Nicolet College will suspend its graphic design program for at least three years. Instead, it will start teaching some graphic design in other business curriculum.

"We're looking at business. We're looking at I.T. We're finding those skills that individuals who go out into those job markets might need from graphic design. Those skills will be embedded into those programs," Stuckenbruck said.

Nicolet College also plans to offer more programs for students who want to tie together entrepreneurship and their creative talents. A new associate's program in fine arts is on the way.

That tie between business and arts is something Szmania is trying to do, even if it's not as a full-time graphic designer. She hopes her new setup will help her business keep growing.

"It's just in the baby steps of it right now," she said.

Nicolet College has just five students enrolled in graphic design right now. They will complete their degree before the program is suspended.

Story By: Ben Meyer

Church Mutual named Futuremakers Partner by Wisconsin Technical College System



Pictured from left are WTCS President Dr. Morna Foy; NTC President Dr. Lori Weyers; Church Mutual President and CEO Richard Poirier; WTCS Board Vice President Mark Tyler; and NTC Board President Maria Volpe.

Posted by: Foto News , November 9, 2016



Church Mutual Insurance Company has earned the prestigious Futuremakers Partner award from Wisconsin Technical College System in recognition of its dynamic and enduring partnership with Wausau-based Northcentral Technical College.

“Church Mutual Insurance Company is one of the most community-minded companies that I have had the privilege of working with,” said Northcentral Technical College president Lori Weyers, who also serves on Church Mutual’s board of directors and understands the company’s dedication to education. “As a strong supporter of NTC, the company has been instrumental in providing opportunities for our students, including Church Mutual IT Scholars, which provides students with a career pathway in information technology, and The Branch, which supports entrepreneurial skills development and ensures economic vitality for the region.”

Commenting on the Futuremakers Partner award, Church Mutual president and CEO Rich Poirier said, “I am humbled by this honor and proud of our team for continuing Church Mutual’s long history of being involved with education. Tomorrow’s workforce needs encouragement and assistance today, and I’m pleased we can have a hand in that important transition.”

The Church Mutual IT Scholars program, established in 2015, provides financial assistance to graduating high school seniors who are interested in careers in information technology. Qualified participants receive full financial assistance for their associate degrees in IT at NTC, as well as their required bachelor’s degrees. They also have the opportunity to work at Church Mutual during their studies and qualify for full-time employment after graduation.

The Branch, launched in 2016 with premier investment of \$250,000 from Church Mutual, is an entrepreneurial skills accelerator program designed to foster student development and help keep top talent in the region. The program is led by the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce and based on the NTC campus.

“The Futuremaker Partners include some of Wisconsin’s leading companies,” said Wisconsin Technical College System president Morna Foy. “The leadership within these companies understand the important role the technical colleges play in their success, and we are pleased to join Northcentral Technical College to honor Church Mutual.”

Church Mutual has a strong dedication to education, which complements its strength in technology. From launching a pilot program using drones for property assessment and inspection to offering free temperature sensors to houses of worship at risk for burst pipes, the company has embraced the Internet of Things. Applying IoT thinking to the unique

The Daily News

BREAKING NEWS **Rollover crash in Norway**

NWTC builds new automotive, diesel truck facility

2015 referendum continues to allow more grads in high-demand career areas



THIS RENDERING SHOWS the new automotive and diesel truck facility being constructed at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's campus in Green Bay. It is expected to open in fall 2017.

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Construction is under way on a plot of land across East Campus Drive from the Building and Construction Technology Center

on the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College campus in Green Bay.

Crews are working on the new NWTC Transportation Center. The project is part of the \$66.5 million referendum voters approved in April 2015.

The 63,000-square-foot building will house the college's automotive, auto collision and diesel medium and heavy truck programs. The diesel truck program is new to NWTC.

Plans for the new facility include a state-of-the-art diesel truck repair lab, auto collision and refinishing lab, and two auto repair labs complete with a shared parts department.

"The building allows us to update and modernize the collision and refinishing program as well upgrade the auto tech program," said NWTC Associate Dean of Construction and Transportation Gene Francisco. *"By bringing these three programs together in one building we will realize some synergies in instruction, a shared parts department, and we are looking to share some curriculum between programs to provide more flexibility to students."*

The building also includes five classrooms, meeting and study spaces, a transportation welding shop, and a state-of-the-art high bay demonstration lab for instructional and corporate partner use.

"We also intend to develop more offerings to our high school partners that can be applied to all of the programs," Francisco added.

The facility will serve up to 96 auto tech students, 96 diesel truck repair students, and 32 collision and refinishing students.

It expected to open in fall 2017.

COMMENTS

NWTC merges with school districts

By [Monique Lopez](#) | Posted: Mon 5:04 PM, Oct 24, 2016 | Updated: Tue 3:05 PM, Oct 25, 2016



IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich.
(WLUC) Northeast Wisconsin

Technical College has joined forces with four Wis. school districts. The collaboration was made official at the signing of a charter school agreement in Iron Mountain.

The merger between NWTC and the school districts of Florence, Niagara, Pembine and Goodman has formed the Woodland Academy Consortium in Aurora, Wis. The goal of combining all of these entities to essentially create one academy is to be able to provide students with additional career and technical education opportunities they, otherwise, would not have been able to alone.

"It's, oftentimes, a very difficult thing to be able to, at small schools, offer everything that you would want to or what all students are interested in," said NWTC President Jeff Rafn. "We believe that by working together and coordinating together; sharing resources, that we'll be able to offer many more opportunities to students."

By pulling all of their resources and talents together, the academy will give high school students the chance to be dually enrolled and begin earning college credits while still in high school. While there are plenty of jobs available locally, the training for them is minimal. Through this collaboration, that need will be met.

"The jobs are there. Our institution, our goal, our mission is to prepare them for their future," said superintendent of Florence County School District Ben Niehaus. "So, we're providing more exposure, more opportunities, more pathways, as we call it, for students to choose from as to where they want to go. And...there is, there's a plethora of opportunities out there and we can provide the training collectively for that. "

The courses will constitute portions of these occupational pathways leading to completion of post-secondary certificates, [diplomas](#) and degrees.

"We know that if a student comes to the college with 12 to 15 credits that they earned while they were in high school that they are much more likely to persist and complete their degree," Rafn said.

Many course options are already available and additional opportunities are expected to be added as the program develops.

Date: November 14, 2016

Southwest Tech Hosts First Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training

Fennimore, WI -

From November 7 to 10, 2016 on the Southwest Tech campus, a group of law enforcement professionals attended a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. The training was put on by Southwest Tech's Public Safety Department, in collaboration with Holly Knapp from Unified Community Services in Grant and Iowa County. This training was made possible because of a portion of a grant for which Knapp applied. Originally she had hoped to secure funding to send local law enforcement to training in the state, but when she learned that we could develop our own she sought to collaborate with Southwest Tech.

CIT training is specialized to help police officers who respond to a call involving someone with mental illness or developmental disabilities. The success of CIT training is that it helps bolster connections between police, health care, mental health and advocacy agencies. By hosting the training at Southwest Tech it is tailored to our specific community needs and creates more awareness of our local resources. Twenty seats were available for this class, and it filled weeks before the registration deadline.

Training will continue to be offered to local law enforcement professionals through Southwest Tech and Unified Community Services in Spring 2017. For details contact Southwest Tech Public Safety, 608.822.2706.

WCTC consults with Plan Commission on EVOC expansion



Alec Johnson , ajohnson4@gannett.com

10:53 a.m., CDT October 18, 2016



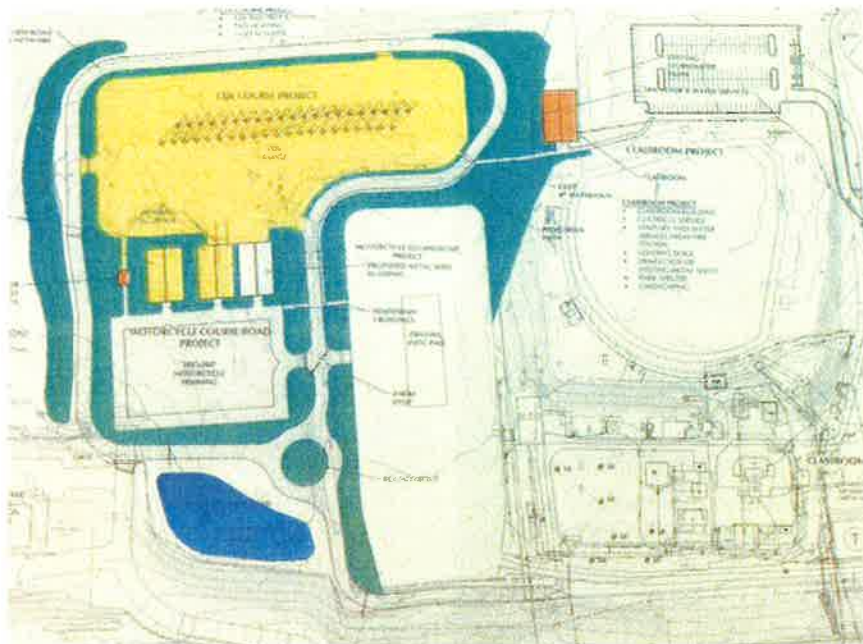
(Photo: Submitted graphic)

IF Waukesha County Technical College officials get their way, WCTC will soon have a bigger track for its emergency vehicle driving course.

Officials from WCTC met with the village of Pewaukee Plan Commission on Oct. 13 to consult on a proposed expansion of the school's emergency vehicle operating course (EVOC).

The plans call for an expansion of the track into the extreme southwestern part of the campus, with a motorcycle course around it that includes a four-way stop and roundabout, along with overall mass grading, a motorcycle pad, pad lighting, a stormwater

basin, railroad crossing, road network that surrounds a new commercial driving license course, two metal sheds, a berm and landscaping. There would also be a classroom east of the CDL course and surrounding road network.



This plan shows a proposed expansion of the EVOC track at WCTC. (Photo: submitted)

According to Pewaukee planner Mary Censky, the college has seen a shift in the demand for workforce specialties, and this one, in particular, appeared to be in a growth mode.

"They have more demand than they have capacity to serve without running very extreme hours of operation," Censky said at the meeting, explaining the reasons behind the expansion. "Even with that, they're finding that they still can't provide enough curriculum to students where the demand is high."

Specifically, there's more demand for the trucking, law enforcement, criminal justice, fire training and emergency medical service fields, according to WCTC director

of public relations Shelly Kuhn.

"We're doing all we can to ensure that we train these individuals and get them out on the road so they can contribute to our economy," Kuhn said.

Most commissioners supported the project, along with groups mentioned by Kuhn, including the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, the Waukesha Fire Department and a number of trucking companies.

However, commission members also expressed concerns about the potential noise issues that would come with the expansion, along with a dissatisfied resident of the Steeplechase subdivision west of WCTC. Andrew Barth stated in an email to Village President Jeffrey Knutson that the noise levels generated from the existing track were excessive.

"Last year, they operated this course from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., beyond their already ridiculous stated hours of 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.," Barth wrote. "Those stated hours are completely unacceptable for a residential area, and I can't believe this type of industrial activity complies with whatever use permits they have with the village."

WCTC officials said they were doing their best to resolve any concerns, including sound testing at various points of the proposed site, trying out air silencers on air brakes and reducing the hours of the sessions. They have also held two public information sessions and have gone door-to-door in the Steeplechase subdivision to alleviate concerns.

A future meeting date on the project has yet to be determined.

Western Alumni receive technical college award

Tribune staff 15 hrs ago



Contributed

Pictured from left to right, Angie Lawrence- Western District Board vice chair; Brian and Jeff Wieser of Wieser Brother General contractor; Edward J. Lukasek - Western District Board secretary; and Lee Rasch, president of Western Technical College.

Two Western Technical College alumni, Jeff and Brian Wieser, have been recognized by the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association as the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients.

Jeff is a 1983 graduate and Brian a 1986 graduate of the wood tech program at Western and both were recently honored at the association's fall banquet. Each year, a Wisconsin Technical College graduate is recognized, and a winner is selected based on several criteria including professional accomplishments and the role technical education played in their life.

Jeff and Brian are owners of Wieser Brothers General Contractor, which they formed in 1994. Since that time, the business has grown from two employees to more than 100; an estimated 80-85 percent of whom are Western Technical College graduates.

Throughout the years, the brothers have maintained a strong relationship with the college, establishing the Wieser Brothers General Contractor Endowed Scholarship, with 16 students having benefited to date. Additionally, Jeff serves on the Western Foundation Board, Brian on the Wood Tech Advisory Committee and both sponsor the Western Scholarship Golf Outing.

"Brian and Jeff epitomize the spirit of Western alumni—hard-working, skilled, leaders, and vital to the communities we serve," Western Alumni and Foundation manager Sally Emerson said. "The Western Alumni Association is honored to have our graduates recognized statewide."

Nathan Hansen

Nathan Hansen has been the Education Reporter for the Tribune since 2014. Prior to that, he covered education, agriculture and business topics for the Winona Daily News. He is always on the lookout for news tips and can be contacted at 608-791-8234.

Currents

Manufacturing a workforce: Education, policy, culture all shape manufacturing's future

By [Brooks Johnson](#) on Oct 30, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.



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Editor's note: This is the third of a three-part series examining the state of manufacturing in the Northland.

- **Part One:** [A steely resolve: Optimism amid challenges for Northland manufacturing](#)
- **Part Two:** [Northland employees need updated skills in new manufacturing reality](#)

If we all raise our children to be astronauts, who will be left to build the rockets?

Minnesota manufacturers face a glut of global challenges, few as pressing and seemingly solvable as the shortage of skilled workers.

"We don't have as many people coming through the pipeline as we have had in the past," said Charlie Glazman, associate dean at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

Yet far from living in the twilight of American manufacturing, many say it's just been dark before a new dawn, one bright with opportunities though fogged with uncertainty.

"We don't know what's over the horizon," Glazman said. "You talk to me 20 years ago and half the jobs we're trying to fill now didn't even exist. What's going to happen in 20 years from now is there are going to be more jobs that don't exist now that a college is going to have to address."

Colleges can educate a willing workforce, but policymakers and parents have a role to play in setting the stage for employers and steering the culture to create a bigger pool of potential employees.

"This is an issue for our region we really need to tackle," said Brian Hanson, CEO of local business recruiter APEX. "It needs to start at the elementary schools even, with the idea that manufacturing is not dull and dirty, it's high-tech, it's

good-paying jobs and it's a much more exciting workplace to be in than the old picture of a person standing on an assembly line."

"As a result you have to be trained — and get better pay."

Advanced training, advanced jobs

In a bright, clean shop in downtown Duluth last week, students lined rows of manual mills, earning their right to move on to the screens and keypads that will dominate the rest of their education and, most likely, careers.

"You need to have the core basics so you can see it, smell it, hear it," said Max Udovich, a machine technology instructor at Lake Superior College. "We're teaching students to do the work ... before making every piece with one push of the button."

The shop at the college's downtown campus holds more advanced equipment than many area manufacturers, and the goal is to keep it that way. It's just like the old adage: If you're

not early, you're late.

"It never ends; technology is advancing so much," Udovich said.

LSC and WITC have both moved in recent years to help meet the demands of a changing and suddenly growing manufacturing industry in need of more skilled hands. LSC opened its downtown campus in 2014, giving its advanced manufacturing programs three times as much space; WITC's Superior campus cut the ribbon on its renovated facilities earlier this month.

Both schools stock their advisory boards with regional employers and employees to fine-tune curriculums and teach exactly what manufacturers are looking for.

"Just last year we wrapped up our curriculum revamp," said Jenni Swenson, LSC's dean of business and industry. "We've also compacted the curriculum to get students into the workforce much sooner."

That's welcome news for Matt Gildner, who is about to start sending out his resumes ahead of his fourth and final semester. The 32-year-old got an engineering degree in 2008, when the recession crumpled the job market and, as he puts it, "the placement rate went from 100 percent to 0 percent."

"This is my door back into the industry," he said from the controls of a waterjet cutting machine on the LSC shop floor.

The placement rate is much better today, Udovich said, adding: "I could give every student here a job right now."

It's increasingly common for those with four-year degrees to go back for technical training and more direct pathways to employment.

"In the words of one of our students, who is now working for the college: 'I went to a four-year college for education but came to WITC for a career,'" said Glazman, the associate dean at WITC.

Not every student comes equipped with a degree — some don't even have hands-on experience with tools — and Glazman said too much time is spent on remedial math skills needed to meet the demands of new manufacturing technology.

That's a problem that needs to be solved before students get out of high school, something colleges are trying to help with outreach but can't solve alone.

A policy fix?

Sen. Amy Klobuchar puts the problem simply: "Businesses across Northeastern Minnesota need workers, and workers need jobs. In Minnesota, 66 percent of our manufacturers said it was difficult for them to find workers with the right skills and experience."

Supporting apprenticeship programs, investing in broadband and tuition assistance and incentivizing business/college partnerships are a few of the efforts Klobuchar and fellow Sen. Al Franken shared when asked how they can help boost manufacturing.

"The skills gap exists in every state, so working on this problem should be a very bipartisan effort," Franken said.

To meet the skills gap and worker shortage even earlier, Lt. Gov. Tina Smith said school districts need to be "nimble" to keep up with the needs of their communities.

"We need to really start looking at this in high school, and understand what we can do to help school districts bring a modern version of industrial arts, more hands-on versions of classes we used to offer," Smith said by phone last week. "Not just a 'let's build a footstool,' but experiences tied into the realities of manufacturing today."

While she stressed that Minnesota's tradition of local control of school districts is a positive, the state's second-in-command posited that the state can be a "helpful partner" in reviving vocational programs that have slowly disappeared.

In doing its part, LSC is organizing field trips for K-12 students and launching a mobile collection of high-tech equipment that area schools can reserve to get students advanced hands-on experience.

But are there even enough kids interested in robotics, machining and welding?

“We’ve fallen down on keeping career and college counselors in our high schools,” Smith said. She estimated there are 700 students for every one counselor in the state.

Without being shown how modern manufacturing is clean and rewarding, as the chorus goes, there is less incentive for students to head toward those careers.

“I think we need to bring parents along and help them understand these are great jobs, high-paying, challenging and nothing to be ashamed of by any means,” Smith said.

‘A cultural thing’

Earlier this year, when Enterprise Minnesota asked technical college students what their high schools told them to pursue, it was unanimous: “We’re all told to go to college and become white-collar workers.”

The survey by the manufacturing consulting organization also revealed that only those students whose parents had a technical education or career received support for their decision to go into the trades.

Employers, technical educators and many policymakers want this mindset, as much as anything, to change.

“It’s a cultural thing — you ask most parents about their students, their kids, and a majority are saying you have to go to a four-year college,” said Glazman at WITC. “And when they come out many are having a tough time finding work.”

On the other end, even faculty at WITC are getting poached by manufacturers because there are so many jobs in that industry to fill, Glazman said.

Years of promoting all manners of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers have only begun to chip away at the shortage and skills gap.

“In the past, enrollment was a lot of people out of the industry, out of work; now we’re seeing more high school kids coming up,” said Udovich at LSC.

Those who want to see manufacturing flourish agree a cultural shift means spreading the word that manufacturing is technologically advanced, often takes more computer than physical skill and can be both financially and mentally rewarding.

"I do think we have the chance to do a better job communicating the opportunity to our youth," said APEX's Hanson. "As baby boomers are leaving the workforce there's a lot of opportunity in manufacturing, and we should be figuring out how to share that with schools, with counselors, and tell them there's more than one way to proceed into the working world."